

**It "Dawned" On Me...** *a message from Dawn Giganti*

Dear Creative Carpet & Flooring Friends and Family,

I hope you're having a wonderful summer so far! With all this heat we've been experiencing, I pray you're staying hydrated and taking good care of yourself and your loved ones.

Speaking of caring for those we love, I've been reflecting on how easily we let precious moments slip by without acknowledging the good we see in others. Whether it's recognizing our spouse's thoughtfulness, our children's efforts, a friend's kindness, or even a colleague's dedication to their work, we often notice these beautiful qualities but fail to speak them into existence.

If I'm being completely honest, I'm not very good at this. It's embarrassing how quickly I am to point out mistakes or shortcomings, while genuine praise and recognition seem to get stuck somewhere between my heart and my lips. I notice when someone does something wrong almost instantly, but when they excel, work diligently, or simply show up with excellence, I assume they already know I've noticed. The reality is that people are starving for authentic recognition of their efforts and character, and I'm failing them by staying silent.

I desperately need to work on this myself. Everyone needs to hear that their hard work matters, that their contributions are seen, and that their presence makes a difference. I'm trying to be more intentional about catching people doing things right and telling them immediately. When the thought comes to me later, I'm learning to send that text or make that call rather than assuming the moment has passed.

These words of affirmation aren't just pleasantries. They're powerful tools that build confidence, strengthen relationships, and encourage continued excellence. They benefit both the giver and receiver, creating an atmosphere where people feel valued and motivated to keep giving their best.

**"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."** 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

Our words have the power to be instruments of grace, lifting others up and recognizing the good that God is working through them.

I'm challenging myself to be as quick to praise as I am to critique, as eager to recognize good work as I am to point out flaws. Will you join me in this struggle to become better encouragers?

Stay cool out there, and remember to take care of yourself and those special people in your life!

With love & gratitude,



Dawn Giganti, Marketing & Administration  
Creative Carpet & Flooring

**Month at a Glance:**

**4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> CLOSED 4<sup>th</sup> of July.** - We are closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July & the weekend, but you can still catch us in the Mokena 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Look for smiles, candy, & maybe some questionable dance moves.

**8<sup>th</sup> Cow Appreciation Day.** - Everyone officially goes vegan or vegetarian for the day, so honor the cows by skipping the burgers & embracing the plants.

**9<sup>th</sup> National Sugar Cookie Day.** - And also Dawn Giganti's birthday, which is clearly the universe's way of saying, "Bring her sugar cookies" because they are her favorite.

**24<sup>th</sup> Tell an Old Joke Day.** - Why did the chicken cross the floor? To get to the other plank! Happy Tell an Old Joke Day... groans & eye rolling are welcome.

**Employee birthdays this month:**

July is full of reasons to celebrate at Creative Carpet & Flooring. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, we cheer for Trish Rosco, keeping clients happy. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Debi Newton keeps the numbers in check. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Dawn Giganti works her marketing magic. The 14<sup>th</sup> brings Michelle Sierra, managing the showroom with style. And on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Gina Bonk inspires with her design skills. Happy Birthday to all of you!



Mark  
Bouquet



Mark  
Bouquet Jr.

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\*Residential only. Within the first 30 days after installation. Does not include the cost of installation or other labor. The style must be of equal or lesser value.

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**July 2025**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04 CLOSED	05 CLOSED
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

## Welcome Back Valued Friends!

Alison & John Gargas  
Andrew & Robin Stephens  
Anita Darragh  
Barbara Krause  
Brian & Michelle Berry  
Chris Raynor  
Cory Saxsma

Dru Bocek  
Elizabeth Hauser  
Ethel Young  
Fernando Ribas  
Graham Preuss  
Harry Mabry  
Jason & Nicole Smit

Jerry & George Toth  
Jim & Candy Smith  
Joanne Beckmann  
Joe Dittrich  
Kenneth Gunia  
Linda & Mike Champion  
Mark & Linda Becker

Melissa Doud  
Michael Hvizd  
Rachael Chemerinsky  
Rita Hanko  
Susan Drew  
Tim & Brittney Kats  
Vincent Stout

WELCOME  
BACK!



## Sweet Memories From Grandma's Kitchen

Many desserts that once filled American kitchens have quietly disappeared from our tables, replaced by modern conveniences and shifting tastes. Some evolved with the times, while others simply faded into the pages of cookbook history.

The transformation of dessert culture really took off when sugar became accessible to everyday families. In the 17th century, colonial trade made sugar widely available for the first time. What was once a precious commodity suddenly became affordable, pushing sweet courses to the end of meals and sparking an explosion of cakes, pies, and confections. Here are seven beloved desserts that capture the ingenuity of kitchens past:

**Vinegar Pie:** When fresh citrus was too expensive or unavailable, resourceful bakers created a pie using vinegar as a substitute. The sharp bite of vinegar surprisingly mimicked the tartness of lemon, earning it the nickname "desperation pie." It perfectly shows how home cooks turned limitations into delicious solutions.

**Jumbles:** These delicate butter cookies were twisted into elegant knots and perfumed with rosewater or spices. Beloved for centuries because they stored beautifully and traveled well, jumbles were the reliable sweet that could sit in a tin and still taste wonderful weeks later.

**Carrot Pudding:** Long before carrot cake, there was carrot pudding. This dish straddled the line between savory and sweet, often including potatoes and warming spices. Sometimes baked, sometimes steamed, it showed how cooks turned humble root vegetables into something special.

**Shoofly Pie:** Pennsylvania Dutch kitchens gave us this sticky molasses pie topped with buttery crumbs. The name supposedly comes from bakers constantly shooing away flies attracted to its irresistibly sweet surface.

**Mincemeat Pie:** Originally a method for preserving meat and fruit together, this pie has evolved over time. By the Victorian era, most recipes dropped the actual meat for spiced fruits, nuts, and suet. It remains a cherished holiday tradition in Britain.

**Fruitcake:** Before becoming the butt of holiday jokes, fruitcake was serious business. Roman soldiers carried dense, fruit-packed versions on campaigns because they lasted forever. The booze-soaked versions we know developed over centuries, aging like wine.

**Tomato Soup Cake:** The Great Depression sparked incredible kitchen creativity, and the tomato soup cake might be one of the most surprising success stories. Using Campbell's condensed tomato soup, bakers created moist, warmly spiced cakes that nobody would guess contained vegetables.

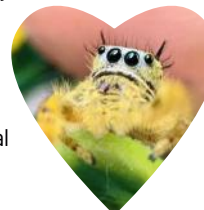
These desserts remind us that the best recipes often come from making the most of what we have. Whether born from scarcity or abundance, each tells the story of people who found ways to bring sweetness into their lives.



## Tiny Acrobats With Big Personalities

Meet the jumping spider, nature's most adorable eight-legged athlete. These tiny creatures are basically the puppies of the spider world. Once you see one up close, you'll understand why spider enthusiasts are obsessed. First, those eyes. Jumping spiders have four pairs of eyes,

with two massive front ones that give them a perpetually surprised or curious appearance. They can see in color and have better vision than most spiders. They'll actually turn their heads to look at you, which is both charming and slightly unnerving. But here's where it gets really impressive. These little guys can jump up to 50 times their own body length. If humans could do that, we'd be leaping over buildings like superheroes. They don't even use webs to catch prey. Instead, they're tiny hunters who stalk their victims and pounce with incredible precision. The best part? They have personalities. Some are bold and curious, others are shy. They'll wave their front legs at potential mates in elaborate courtship dances that look like tiny cheerleading routines. Seriously, look up jumping spider mating dances on YouTube. You're welcome.



## Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Our Newest Friends!

Adaobi Okeke  
Alex Janda  
Amber McGoldrick  
Ben Safin & Christina Wright  
Brian Locascio  
Bridgett Mcdermott  
Bud Pruim  
Carolyn & Elliot Burica

Cathy Majchrzak  
Chelsie Moe  
Cindy Adams  
Debbie Steinborn  
Debbie Volkman  
Diane Morrow  
Elizabeth Ziccardi  
Gayle Snedden

Julia Pecho  
Julie & Paul Bonoma  
Julie Evans  
Kathleen & Eddie Vargas  
Kenny Wirth  
Kristine & Francis Halling  
Lisa Schoon  
Lisa Stefans

Lisa Tepper  
Mark & Tina Hines  
Maryann Heniff  
Maureen Lynch  
Meagan Thomas  
Megan Puntillo  
Michael & Michelle Pope  
Michelle Smith

Mike Pilarczyk  
Nicole OGorman  
Pam Valleyfield  
Pat Hreno  
Pete & Linda Hojnicki  
Rhonda VanDellen  
Ron & Debbie Yates  
Sal Villanueva

Sandra Halper  
Taylor Owen  
Tom Klemm  
Trisha Madura  
Valerie & Pete  
Piazza  
William Cameon

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## When Paris Heats Up, So Does the Eiffel Tower


The Eiffel Tower might look like a sturdy fixture of the Paris skyline, but it actually grows taller in summer. As temperatures rise, the metal frame expands, giving it a temporary boost of nearly six inches. So yes, the Iron Lady quite literally stretches her legs when the sun comes out.

Back in 1889, the tower made its debut as the grand entrance to the World's Fair. Believe it or not, not everyone was thrilled. A group of artists and intellectuals famously slammed the design in a public letter, calling it a useless monstrosity that would ruin Paris's beauty.

Their criticism didn't stick. The tower turned heads and drew crowds almost immediately. Even though it was only supposed to stand for twenty years, its usefulness as a radio tower kept it firmly planted. Gustave Eiffel initially had a limited permit at first, but the structure's growing popularity ensured it would stay put.

Today, it's hard to imagine Paris without it. And now you know it's not just charming and iconic, it's also a little taller when it's hot out.





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July 1 – September 2

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Tuftex**



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# MEGA Trivia Contest

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\$50 restaurant gift card to



## This month's Mega Trivia question:

What food item is celebrated at  
Whiting, Indiana's most famous  
summer festival?

- (A) Bratwurst
- (B) Corn dogs
- (C) Pierogies
- (D) Funnel cakes

Join the fun at [creativecarpetinc.com](http://creativecarpetinc.com)! Hit the 'MEGA Trivia' tab under 'Specials,' and take your guess on our monthly question between the 1st and the 20th. The drawing will take place on the 21st for all who answered correctly. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter. Don't forget, entries close on the 20th. Best of luck!

## Last month's question:

Which Northern Illinois town is known as the  
"Sock Monkey Capital of the World"?

**Answer: (B) Rockford**

Rockford, Illinois, is known as the "Sock Monkey Capital of the World" thanks to the Nelson Knitting Company, which created the red-heeled sock used in the original sock monkeys. During the Great Depression, families began turning these socks into toys, sparking the iconic trend. Rockford celebrates this quirky piece of its past with the annual Sock Monkey Madness Festival, held at the Midway Village Museum. In 2025, the festival marked its 20th anniversary on Saturday, March 8, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The family-friendly event includes the Make-A-Monkey Workshop, historical exhibits, games, crafts, and even a "Sockford Hospital" for sock monkey repairs.

**Congratulations to last month's winner:**

**LORENE  
EVENHOUSE**

OF HIGHLAND, IN

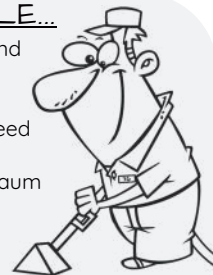
Claim your prize by visiting your nearest Creative Carpet & Flooring showroom from July 1 - 31, 2025. Thanks for taking part in our contest! Enjoy your prize!

## MEET OUR CARPET CLEANING CIRCLE...

Andrew Foster  
Carolynne Buche  
Chandra Ware  
Charles Townley  
Dan Topper  
Dawn Gora  
Greg & Marleen Kraai  
Heather Fallon  
James Oconner

Jeff & Dorice Franczyk  
Jennie Flatley  
Joan & Bruce Sirota  
Joanne Beckman  
Jonnelle Sweetner  
Judith Philip  
Marilyn Kwinta  
Melissa & Kyle Gauby  
Norma Reitz

Pamela & Raymond Summers  
Pat Phelan  
Patricia Devine-Reed  
Rae Tamblyn  
Stephanie Applebaum  
Tammy Spatola  
Theresa Lozano  
Winnie Nyhus



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## A Tale of Sweat, Science, and Serendipity

It's 1902, and some poor soul in Brooklyn is having the WORST day at work because their entire printing business is literally falling apart thanks to humidity. Yes, humidity! The villain of our story isn't a mustache-twirling bad guy; it's moisture in the air.

The Sackett-Wilhelms Lithographing and Publishing Company was in crisis mode. Every time the weather got steamy, their fancy colored prints would go haywire. Papers would expand and shrink like they were doing yoga, causing colors to resemble a toddler's finger-painting experiment gone wrong. Red where there should be blue! Yellow bleeding into green! It was a business disaster!

Along comes Willis Carrier, a 25-year-old engineer who probably never imagined he'd become the patron saint of summer comfort. Armed with determination and thermodynamics knowledge, Willis was ready to make the air behave itself.

Carrier's brilliant idea was essentially to give air a cold shower. He created a contraption that passed air over coils filled with cold water, like standing in front of an open refrigerator door, but actually effective. The genius part? If you make air cold enough, it literally can't hold onto troublesome moisture. The water just gives up and drips out, leaving behind perfectly behaved air.

Here's the kicker. Willis wasn't trying to make people comfortable. He just wanted to fix cranky printing machines! The idea that humans might enjoy not melting into puddles during summer was completely accidental. For decades, air conditioning was exclusively for factories where humidity was the enemy.

The real game changer came when movie theaters discovered that air conditioning was a customer magnet. Suddenly, going to the movies wasn't just entertainment; it was survival.

So, next time you're lounging in your climate-controlled living room, spare a thought for Willis Carrier. He accidentally invented the technology that makes modern civilization possible.



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## Thank you to...

Anna Pogoda  
Chris Mika  
Denise Mueller  
Ela Bulawa  
Greg & Donna Cieslak  
John & Deb Coursey  
Joseph Siwinski  
Karen Cozen  
Kathleen Robinson  
Ken & Bree Wirth  
Lauren & Dennis Zalewski  
Marybeth Farrell  
Mike Madura  
Tyler & Sara Kent  
Westly & Emily Lempera  
William & Alvina DeBoer

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MON 10am 6pm  
TUE 10am 8pm  
WED 10am 6pm  
THR 10am 8pm  
FRI 10am 6pm  
SAT 10am 4pm  
SUN closed

Did you recently have flooring installed by us? Share a photo of your finished project along with a quick review on our website within 30 days of installation, and you'll be entered to win a \$25 gift card. This month, there were no entries, so your chances of winning next month are looking better than ever. Just snap a pic, share your thoughts, and you could be our next lucky winner!



MON 9am 6pm  
TUE 9am 6pm  
WED 10am 6pm  
THR 9am 6pm  
FRI 9am 6pm  
SAT 10am 4pm  
SUN closed



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**THANKS  
FOR  
THE REVIEW**



**No entries this month means great odds for you. Show off your floors and win!**

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